



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 78 FRASER-CASCADE

EVERYONE PULLING TOGETHER

## SD78 STAFFING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jan. 21, 2022

### **Principal of Special Responsibility (Covid Support for Indigenous Students)**

The Fraser-Cascade School District is excited to announce that Stan Watchorn has been assigned as the Principal of Special Responsibility for Indigenous students and families who are struggling to return to in-person learning due to the COVID pandemic these past two years. This position will commence February 1, 2022. There are currently 667 Indigenous students in the district. While many of the students have returned to school, some families have struggled with regular attendance and emotional health challenges since the pandemic.

We are pleased with the increased mental health supports from our District Counsellors and the cultural support from our District Principal of Indigenous Education and our Indigenous Support Workers, however we continue to need targeted interventions and supports for our students and families.

One of Stan's key roles will be to create an **Indigenous Friendship Centre** at the CE Barry site. This may be a transition and connection space for families who require extra academic, social, and emotional support to return to school. He will also work at the new Indigenous Friendship building on the Kent Elementary site and at the Boston Bar Elementary Secondary School.

Stan has built a firm foundation of trust, dedication and respect with our Indigenous communities in the Fraser-Cascade School District. His background in Counselling and educational leadership is a further asset to this position. When this initiative was brought forward to the Board of Education they could not think of a better person than Stan to lead it. This role is strongly supported by the Board and believed to be a worthwhile initiative that both focuses on the students and demonstrates our district's commitment to fulfilling the obligations of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

### **Acting Principal - Kent Elementary School**

We are also pleased to announce that Gord Johnson will assume the role of Acting Principal of Kent Elementary School effective February 1, 2022. Gord has a strong Elementary School background. He spent several years as a teacher at Harrison Hot Springs Elementary and has been the Vice Principal at Agassiz Elementary Secondary for the past three years. Gord has shown

strong and dedicated leadership at AESS, and he will bring structure, calm, persistence and patience to this new role. This position will be posted for a competition in June.

**Acting Vice Principal - Kent Elementary School**

Jessica McKerrow is temporarily assigned to Kent Elementary as Vice Principal for fifty percent of her assignment. Her added time at the school will bring leadership and support to the Inclusive Education Department at Kent. She will also continue her role as District Vice Principal of Inclusive Education as well as supporting students at Coquihalla Elementary. Jessica is a dedicated and passionate educator who knows the Kent community well.

**Acting Vice Principal – Agassiz Elementary Secondary School**

Anita Swinford has been assigned as Acting Vice Principal at Agassiz Elementary Secondary School. Anita is a dynamic teacher who has taken on many leadership initiatives in the school. In placing Anita into the role, the board acknowledges her exceptional relationships with students, staff and the AESS community. An open competition will take place in June if necessary.

Please join us in congratulating Stan, Gord, Jessica and Anita in their new assignments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Balan Moorthy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Balan Moorthy  
Superintendent of Schools